

full strength, but unbeaten run ends ISSUES PROVE COSTLY FOR WYCOMBE AT KINGSTON

Kingstonian 2, Wycombe Wanderers 1

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' unbeaten run—stretching over 13 League and one Cup game this season—came to an unnecessary end at Richmond Road on Tuesday evening. The Blues have only themselves to blame for not settling the issue in the first half-hour.

During this period they missed a glut of chances and had several shots cleared off the line, and the only goal they had to show for all their frenzied activity was a fourth minute own goal from Kingstonian left back Dave Raynham.

Kingstonian gradually eased their way into the game, as Wycombe ran out of steam close to half-time. John Doyle landed a shock equaliser five minutes from the interval with a long shot that John Maskell could have saved and the winner came on the hour as the K's really started to call the tune.

SO NEAR

It was left to Delaney to almost snatch a point for Wycombe as they threw everyone up to save the game. But 18-years-old John Penney, making his home debut in the Kingstonian goal, was superb.

He survived the worry of that hectic opening spell, when Wycombe did everything but score.

One glorious header by Delaney had Wycombe hands raised in joyful acclaim of an equaliser, until Penney launched himself into a one-handed save to take the ball on the line.

That came in the 30 minutes Wycombe had left to redeem themselves. Bernie Bremer gave up his mid-field role to show his shooting prowess, but the K's held out.

Wanderers lined up with a much stronger side than had seemed possible over the weekend. John Delaney and Larry Pritchard both offset their injuries sufficiently to appear, while Charlie Gale gave his ankle a full testing for the first time since his accident.

The match also marked the return of John Maskell in goal after a finger injury, and Barty Baker.

Indeed it was more or less the top side available as opposed to the skeleton of a team which it had been feared would be turning out. Although their five returnees were all lacking match sharpness, Wanderers were soon pressing the K's.

TOP TEAM

James cleared off his line from Horseman in the first minute. Pritchard had a powerful shot blocked by a defender seconds later; and then Penney saved from Delaney.

Kingstonian not capable of a shot until their dramatic 40th minute equaliser, when Doyle ran through the middle of a back-peddalling defence, before putting in a long shot that saw Maskell diving late, getting his hands to the ball, but unable to stop it crossing the line.

Twice Maskell was again beaten before the interval, but this time centre-forward Chris Stubbs was a shade off target.

SUBSTITUTE

Kingstonian quickly produced Keith Keary from the substitute's bench seven minutes into the second half — a move that proved a winner.

But before Keary was to stamp his impression on the game, Horseman found himself with a clear shot at goal, only to be robbed by the quick-thinking Penney. The cost of such a miss was felt on the hour, when Keary started a move on the halfway line, before sending Stubbs away and Charlie Marks raced in on the blind side of the Wycombe defence to plant the

ball firmly past the advancing Maskell.

Wanderers replied with such power and fury that it looked only a matter of time before they were back in the picture. Bremer went just wide with an angled drive, Hutchinson blazed over and then came Delaney's fine header that produced Penney's save of the match.

A minute from time, Penney stuck out a leg to deflect Hutchinson's shot off his line and Wycombe fired their last desperate salvo in the second tense minute of extra-time, when they awarded a free-kick on the edge of the Kingstonian penalty area.

Delaney took a short one, Bremer jumped the ball into the Kingstonian wall and back it came for Hutchinson to have a try. But again Penney dived to save the day.

KINGSTONIAN: Penney, Hawkins, Raynham, Wheeler, James, Preston, Doyle, Marks, Stubbs, Dick (sub.: Keary), Adaway.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS: Maskell, Fuschillo, Gale, Powell, Delaney, Baker, Bremer, Pritchard, Searle, Horseman, Hutchinson. Sub.: Blunt (not used).

The fourth minute quickly brought a reward as Keith Searle crossed hard from the left and Raynham deflected the ball out of his goalkeeper's hands, into the net.

Powell made a fine opening for Horseman, four minutes later, but this time Raynham cleared off his line. Then soon after, Penney made a back-breaking save to stop a vicious close range shot by Hutchinson.

And so the game continued at a breath-taking pace, with